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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KATHMANDU 000057

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS AND DS/IP/NEA
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USAID/DCHA/OFDA
USAID FOR ANE/AA GORDON WEST AND JIM BEVER
MANILA FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA
LONDON FOR POL/REIDEL
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL/DAUFHAUSER AND DAS JZARATE
TREASURY ALSO FOR OFAC/RNEWCOMB AND TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST
FINANCING
JUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/DLAUFMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PTER CASC PGOV NP IN

SUBJECT: NEPAL: UPDATE ON MAOIST ACTIVITIES, JAN 4-10

Reference: Kathmandu 0050

SUMMARY

1. Interpol has issued five more warrants for Maoists, bringing the total to sixteen. The Government of Nepal (GON) and the Maoists still have not agreed on a date for peace talks, but the GON announced a plan aimed at rehabilitating Maoists. The insurgency, meanwhile, has created a demand for passports from people trying to escape the violence, overwhelming administrative offices and leaving some unable to fulfill requests. Maoists continue to destroy infrastructure and kill innocent civilians. Six security personnel were killed and twenty injured after being ambushed by Maoists. Maoists also killed the vice-president of a school, a Nepali Congress worker, and a man they accused of being an informant for security forces. A civilian was killed when he was caught in the crossfire between Maoists and security personnel. One hundred and forty students kidnapped from one district by Maoists were released, but over 100 remain in captivity. Maoist activity has forced the shutdown of many small businesses. The GON announced that nine people in custody under suspicion of being Maoists were released.

INTERPOL ADDS MORE MAOISTS TO WARRANT LIST

2. Interpol issued Red Corner Notices against five additional Maoist leaders on charges of terrorism, armed robbery and murder. The list, now totaling sixteen, already includes the top two Maoist leaders, Prachanda and Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai.

NO SIGN OF PEACE TALKS; GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES REHAB PLAN

3. Narayan Singh Pun, Minister for Physical Planning and Works, said the Government of Nepal (GON) has devised a plan to rehabilitate Maoists and turn them into "responsible citizens." Pun said the Disarm, Demobilize, Rehabilitate and Reintegrate (DDRR) program was finalized by the GON and is awaiting cabinet approval. The DDRR program is designed to show Maoists that there are alternatives to war and violence, and assist in rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Training and employment opportunities would also be made available. Pun said participants would remain in the training camps for six to eight months. The program will be launched in the mid-western development districts, which are the most heavily affected by Maoists. The GON hopes the program, scheduled to start January 15, will help end the insurgency.

MAOIST CAMPAIGN CAUSING INCREASE IN PASSPORT REQUESTS

4. The Maoist insurgency has created a flood of people requesting passports in order to escape the violence. District Administrative Offices (DAO) in Palpa, Gulmi and Arghakhanchi have depleted supplies of passport books, and are currently unable to process any further applications until more books are dispatched by the Ministry. Netra Prasad Sharma, Chief District Officer (CDO) of Gulmi, said that young people are leaving to escape the "one-house one-person" conscription campaign carried out by the Maoists, in which every household is forced to contribute at least one youth to join the insurgents. Other villagers are leaving out of fear for their safety. Maoists control the western part of Gulmi, while parts of Palpa, Syangja, western Tanahu and Nawalparasi Districts also have been overrun by the Maoists.

5. Abandoned headquarters in Dolakha District also have caused public administration to come to a standstill. The Chief District Officer (CDO) and assistant CDO have left the

headquarters for other posts, leaving local residents unable to obtain citizenship papers, passports and other necessary documents. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been unable to send any replacement officers due to security concerns.

INSURGENCY CRIPPLING VDC INFRASTRUCTURE

16. Village Development Committee (VDC) buildings have been hit hard by the Maoist insurgency. According to the VDC National Council, 1369 out of a total 3915 VDC offices have been destroyed by Maoist attacks since the Maoists began their "People's War" in 1996. VDC personnel have also been targets of the Maoists. Thirty-three VDC representatives have been killed, thirty-two have been abducted, and fourteen have been assaulted.

MAOIST CONTINUE TO MURDER

17. On January 3 Maoists ambushed and killed three members of the Armed Police Force (APF) and three members of the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) in Banke District. Over twenty security personnel were also injured in the fighting. Maoists abducted and later killed the vice-president of a secondary school from Taplejung District on January 6. In Pyuthan District, Maoists shot and killed a man they said was an informant for security forces. A civilian was killed in Udayapur District when he was caught in the crossfire between Maoists and security forces. On January 9 a group of armed Maoists shot and killed a Nepali Congress activist in Rautahat District, after dragging him from his home.

MAOISTS KIDNAP STUDENTS

18. Students across Nepal are fleeing Maoist-infested areas to avoid being kidnapped or forcibly recruited by the Maoists. According to reports from Dipayal District, the absence of students has resulted in over a dozen schools being closed. Children have fled their schools and homes to avoid the Maoists, who have threatened torture for those who defy their orders. Police said over two dozen students are currently staying in hotels to escape forced recruitment.

19. According to newspaper reports, 140 students kidnapped by Maoists in western Doti District were released after a short period of captivity, but more than 100 remain in the custody of the insurgents. The kidnappings in Doti mirror similar abductions of children in surrounding western districts. These reports, if verified, indicate that the number of students kidnapped is much higher than previous accounts (reftel). The children were released on the condition that they be readily available to join the Maoists when needed. Most of the released children have reportedly fled to district headquarters and India to avoid conscription.

MAOISTS DESTROY BUILDINGS

110. Maoists destroyed a Village Development Committee office in Kavre District on January 3. The insurgents seized the office and set fire to all the documents and furniture. On January 3 the Maoists also set off a pressure cooker bomb at a Lalitpur District ward office, causing severe damage to the building.

MAOISTS IMPOSE CURFEWS, SHUT DOWN BUSINESSES

111. Maoists have banned the manufacturing and sale of alcohol in Salyan District. According to locals, the Maoist Women's Organization has warned of severe consequences for those who possess or purchase alcohol. Many villagers in the Salyan District depend on the sale of alcohol for their livelihood. Because of the ban, most have had to find other means of income.

112. Maoist rebels have imposed a curfew on villagers in the Makwanpur District. Residents are prohibited outside after 7:00 pm. According to villagers, the Maoists also plant landmines to prevent security personnel from entering the area.

113. The Maoist insurgency has caused many small businesses in Sunsari District to close. Over half the businesses, ranging from tourism and agriculture to energy, have closed their offices, citing a lack of security and stability in the region as one of the causes. Small business owners fear that if peace is not restored, industry will continue to decline.

ACCUSED MAOISTS RELEASED FROM JAIL

14. In Siraha District nine people, jailed after the declared state of emergency on charges of being Maoists, were released on January 6 after thirteen months in jail. Among those released was Dev Kumar Yadav, a Nepali journalist who, at the time the state of emergency was declared, was working as a correspondent for the weekly newspaper "Janadisha," considered to be a mouthpiece of the Maoists.

MALINOWSKI